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HATFIELD JOINS CALL FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT II

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- At a National Press Club press conference this morning, Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR) joined several prominent scientists and policy makers in calling for the Manhattan Project II, which would reduce and eventually eliminate the nuclear threat.

Hatfield, who with Senator Kennedy authored the nuclear freeze legislation in the early 1980's, joined the project supporters and outlined his legislative proposal to place a one-year moratorium on nuclear testing. That bill, cosponsored by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, has the support of 46 Senators.

"Fifty years ago, the U.S. government initiated a research project that produced the first atomic bomb. Three years later, in 1945, the result of this all-out effort to design the ultimate weapon of mass destruction led to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As a young Naval officer, I saw the effects of this research at Hiroshima.

"Next Tuesday, the first post-Cold War summit between the U.S. and the Russian Government will take place. Today I join in the call for a new Manhattan Project -- Manhattan Project II -- which will put the same kind of energy and expertise into ending the arms race as there was in creating that race.

"At the upcoming summit, we expect to hear that Russia has accepted a U.S. offer to reduce both arsenals to 4,700 warheads each by the end of the decade. While this reduction would take our arsenal size down to the 1971 level, it still is not enough to reflect the changes in the world."

Hatfield called for support for a Comprehensive Test Ban and an interim moratorium on nuclear testing. Both Russia and France have announced moratoriums.

The Manhattan Project II is supported by dozens of individuals and organizations active in the anti-nuclear movement, including Daniel Ellsberg, William Colby, Physicians for Social Responsibility, SANE/FREZE and Council for a Livable World.

ium recovered from them under safeguards, and implementing international safeguards to assure a cutoff in the further production of these materials for weapons.

In a written statement, Manhattan Project scientist Ray E. Kidder, recently retired from the Lawrence Livermore weapons lab, stressed the "bi-stable" nature of a test ban, that is, "unless all of them agree to a permanent halt in testing, none of them will."

Kidder wrote that the five openly nuclear nations should agree on a comprehensive test ban by the end of 1995, and that, based on his "recent evaluation of the safety of the U.S. nuclear stockpile," the U.S. could accomplish its safety goals with four tests conducted in the next three years.

Kidder's work provided the technical basis for House passage June 4 of a one-year U.S. moratorium on nuclear testing.

The scientists also presented a statement from Prof. Glenn Seaborg, a Manhattan Project scientist, winner of the Nobel Prize for his isolation of plutonium and head of the Atomic Energy Commission under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, who wrote: "I continue to believe that a comprehensive test ban is in the best interests of the United States and all the countries of the world. The advantages of an immediate mutual moratorium and of a comprehensive test ban outweigh, in my judgment, any perceived benefits of further tests for any reason."

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